requested USA for restoration of GSP on all eligible agricultural, chemical and pharmaceutical products.

(b) The U.S. GSP programme provides preferential duty-free entry for more than 4,650 products from designated beneficiary countries. The GSP programme has been renewed and extended upto September 30, 2006.

(c) Indian request is under active consideration of the Government of United States.

Free flow of drugs in developing countries

2482. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether WTO is yet to find ways to offer cheaper drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the failure of the WTO to come to a common agreement which could offer cheaper medicines to developing countries; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure the free flow of drugs without any hindrance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Paragraph 6 of Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement & Public Health provided a mandate to the TRIPS Council to address the problem of countries with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector in making effective use of compulsory licensing under the TRIPS Agreement by the end of 2002. The Chairman, TRIPS Council had proposed a Draft Waiver Decision on 18 December, 2002 to address the problem highlighted in paragraph 6 of Doha Declaration. Consensus could not be achieved in the TRIPS Council on the draft decision proposed by the Chairman, TRIPS Council. The United States proposed restrictive disease coverage under the Draft Waiver Decision. This was not agreeable to the developing countries and the Africa group. WTO Members have not been able to resolve this issue as yet.

India is obliged to extend product patent protection to pharmaceutical and chemical sectors from 1-1-2005. At present, pharmaceutical products are being exported from India to other developing countries.

Exports by MMTC

2483. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC has posted 32 per cent growth in exports;

(b) whether the company has been awarded for this excellent performance;

(c) whether the company has penetrated the Chinese market for ores and if so, details thereof; and

(d) the total export to China and to other countries during the year 2001-2002, mineral-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Sir, MMTC has posted over 38% growth in exports during the period April—December 2002, as compared with the same period last year.

(b) Yes, Sir. MMTC is the first Public Sector Undertaking to be awarded the status of Golden Super Star Trading House in November 1999. Since 1991-1992, MMTC has won the prestigious CAPEXIL award for the highest mineral exports for the 11th time in a row.

(c) MMTC has successfully penetrated the Chinese market for ores, especially Iron Ore and Chrome Ore. MMTC's Iron ore, Chrome ore and Manganese ore exports to China during the last three years are as follows:-

(Quantity: Lakh Tonnes; Value: Rs. Crores)

Commodity	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03 (Provisional)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Iron ore	67.88	459.78	65.34	480.69	63.66	469.68
Chrome ore	4.01	113.70	4.53	101.22	5.50	124.80
Manganese ore	0.42	10.90	0.51	14.60	0.74	14.60
TOTAL :		584.38		596.51		609.08